

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data distribution system which comprises an information terminal for requesting distribution of information and an information provider apparatus for providing information to the information terminal, comprising:

the information terminal automatically transmitting specifications of the information terminal when transmitting an information provision request which requests distribution of information; and

the information provider apparatus including: a receiving unit for receiving the information provision request and the information terminal specifications transmitted from the information terminal; a data storage unit for storing and managing various kinds of information data; a data detection unit for detecting data corresponding to the information provision request received by the receiving unit from the data storage unit; a data conversion unit for converting the data detected by the data detection unit so as to conform to the information terminal specifications received by the receiving unit; and a transmission unit for transmitting the data converted by the data conversion unit to the information terminal.

2. A data distribution system which comprises an information terminal for requesting distribution of information and an information provider apparatus for providing information to the

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information terminal, comprising:

the information terminal automatically transmitting an information terminal ID of the information terminal when transmitting an information provision request which requests distribution of information; and

the information provider apparatus including: an information terminal database for storing and managing the information terminal ID and specifications of the information terminal in pair; a receiving unit for receiving the information provision request and the information terminal ID transmitted from the information terminal and detecting specifications of the information terminal, corresponding to the information terminal ID, from the information terminal database; a data storage unit for storing and managing various kinds of information data; a data detection unit for detecting data corresponding to the information provision request received by the receiving unit from the data storage unit; a data conversion unit for converting the data detected by the data detection unit so as to conform to the information terminal specifications received by the receiving unit; and a transmission unit for transmitting the data converted by the data conversion unit to the information terminal.

3. The data distribution system of Claim 1 wherein the information provider apparatus further includes a charge management unit for deciding an amount of charges according

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to contents of data transmitted to the information terminal and charging an information user.

4. The data distribution system of Claim 2 wherein the information provider apparatus further includes a charge management unit for deciding an amount of charges according to contents of data transmitted to the information terminal and charging an information user.

5. The data distribution system of Claim 3 wherein the information provider apparatus further includes a client database for storing and managing utilization histories of information users, and the charge management unit decides an amount of charges according to utilization history of an information user, stored in the client database, and contents of data transmitted to the information terminal, and charges the information user.

6. The data distribution system of Claim 4 wherein the information provider apparatus further includes a client database for storing and managing utilization histories of information users, and the charge management unit decides an amount of charges according to utilization history of an information user, stored in the client database, and contents of data transmitted to the

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information terminal, and charges the information user.

7. The data distribution system of any of Claims 1 to 6 wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from the information terminal to the information provider apparatus is still picture data, the specifications of the information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a compression method, a number of reproducible pictures, and a storage capacity.

8. The data distribution system of any of Claims 1 to 6 wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from the information terminal to the information provider apparatus is moving picture data, the specifications of the information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a compression method, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

9. The data distribution system of any of Claims 1 to 6 wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from the information terminal to the information provider apparatus is audio data, the specifications of the information terminal include information of at least one selected from a sampling rate, a frequency band, a compression ratio, a

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compression method, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

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